



Principal's Bulletin

Friday 24 January 2025



It is with mixed emotions that I write to inform you of my decision to retire at the end of this academic year. After ten wonderful years as the Principal of Caroline Chisholm School, I have decided that it is time for me to embark on the next chapter of my life.

Serving as your Principal has been one of the greatest honours of my career. Over the past decade, our school community, spanning from Reception to Year 13, has achieved so much – from academic milestones to fostering a nurturing and inclusive school environment where every student can thrive.

I am incredibly proud of what the school has accomplished as a community over this time. Throughout my tenure, my primary focus has always been improving the education and well-being of all of our students. It has been a privilege to watch them grow, learn, and succeed.

I want to assure you that the Caroline Chisholm Education Trust is committed to finding a successor who will uphold the values and standards of the school and help move the school to even greater achievements. I am grateful for the trust and support you have shown me over the years, and I am confident that the school will continue to thrive under new leadership.

Thank you.

A Special Thank You for the Cast and Crew of *Elf*

If you attended a showing of *Elf The Musical* in December, you'll know just how fantastic our students and teachers were in putting on such a wonderful performance. Their hard work and dedication were evident in every aspect of the show. To celebrate their efforts, the cast and crew were treated to a well-deserved pizza celebration, courtesy of the CCS Trust Board, as a heartfelt thank you for their amazing work.

During the event, we also had the pleasure of viewing the stunning show photos, captured by former CCS student and professional photographer Ben Gregory-Ring. His incredible work truly brought the magic of the production to life. We are incredibly grateful to the CCS Trust Board for their kindness and support in celebrating the outstanding efforts of everyone involved in *Elf*.

Key dates

Big Garden Bird Watch

Friday 24-26 January

Big Garden Bird Watch will be taking place as part of our primary learning.

A communication was sent home 15 January.

Parent Mental Health Day

Thursday 30 January

Raising awareness of the importance of parents' mental health. Please see our dedicated resources page: [here](#).

Year 9 Parents' Evening

Thursday 6 February

Bookings for the Parents' Evening will open via EduLink on Wednesday, 29th January at 9:00 AM, allowing you to schedule appointments with your child's subject teachers. The booking system will close on Tuesday, 4th February at 11:55 PM. Please see the communication sent today.

NSPCC Number Day

Friday 7 February

Primary will be joining many schools around the nation and taking part. Number Day is a great way to make maths meaningful, fun and bring about a positive, 'can-do' attitude towards the subject

Tudor Study Sessions - Wed 15th and Wed 22nd January 2025

Over the last two weeks our A-Level Historians in years 12 and 13 have participated in sessions organised by the National Archives. The focus was on the study of original Tudor documents and the role they can play in understanding events in History.

In session 1 students looked at many documents linked to rebellion in Tudor England. Students analysed the documents to work out what they could learn about events such as The Pilgrimage of Grace. They faced and overcame the challenges of difficult to read handwriting and archaic language to pick out key information. Students commented that they were 'able to go into more depth with real documents that relate to their studies and witness the real history and understand where our knowledge of the period originates from'.

In session 2 students listened to a talk on Thomas Cromwell by historian Tracey Borman and then engaged in a live Q&A session with her. Students asked a range of interesting and challenging questions which Tracy Borman answered with enthusiasm. As one student expressed, '*It was really enjoyable and informative, I enjoyed hearing Tracy's answers and her love for Elizabeth I*'. Students were commended by the education officer at the National Archives for their perceptive answers and well thought through questioning.

LEGO Club

We are thrilled to share that our extra-curricular LEGO club has been invited to take part in the Cobblers Brick Show on Saturday, 29th March. Our talented students will receive free entry to the event, where they'll showcase their creative LEGO designs inspired by this year's "birthday" theme. If you're able to support the club by donating any LEGO pieces from home, it would be greatly appreciated. Every contribution will help make their display even more spectacular. A huge well done to our LEGO club!

Celebrating the Success of Former CCS Student, Joseph Kempster

We're celebrating the exciting achievements of former CCS student, Joseph Kempster! Joseph recently made his professional stage debut at the Royal & Derngate in *The Jolly Christmas Postman*, showcasing his incredible talent and passion for the performing arts. Joseph has ventured into the world of improvisational comedy and is now starring in a mockumentary sitcom, set to premiere on YouTube. This marks an exciting new chapter in his journey as a performer. We can't wait to see more.



I look forward to seeing you on Monday as our Year 9 begin the start of their GCSE options assembly.

Kind regards,

David James
Principal

Children's Mental Health Week

Friday 3-9 February

This year we're exploring our theme "Know Yourself, Grow Yourself" in partnership with Here4You supported by the Walt Disney Company and the *Inside Out 2* characters.

School closes for half term break

Friday 14 February